

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A printing apparatus to perform a printing operation by driving hardware provided thereto according to a printing command received from a user, comprising:

 a firmware unit to store function information of a plurality of models of the printing apparatus, and selectively perform the function of one of the plurality of models which corresponds to a model index designated as the printing apparatus is initialized.

2. The printing apparatus of claim 1, wherein the firmware unit comprises:

 a storage unit to store the function information of the plurality of models therein;

 a model index processing unit to store a model index designation command received from outside the firmware unit, extract from the storage unit the function information which corresponds to the model index designated by the model index designation command upon the initialization of the printing apparatus, and output the extracted function information; and

 a firmware driving unit to control the hardware to receive the function information and perform a corresponding function.

3. The printing apparatus of claim 2, wherein the firmware unit further comprises:

 a data receiving unit to receive data from outside the firmware unit, and transmit the model index designation command to the model index processing unit in response to the model index designation command being in the received data;

 a data processing unit to receive the data excluding the model index designation command from the data receiving unit, and convert the data into corresponding printer language; and

 a data printing unit to control the hardware to output the converted data onto a printing medium.

4. The printing apparatus of claim 3, further comprising a developing unit and a fusing unit to output the converted data onto the printing medium, wherein the developing unit and the fusing unit are controlled by the data printing unit.

5. The printing apparatus of claim 2, wherein the model index designation command is transmitted along with initialization files through a printer interface during the manufacturing of the printing apparatus, so that the model index designation command is processed upon the initialization of the printing apparatus.

6. The printing apparatus of claim 2, wherein the model index designation command is transmitted in a separate command file that is transmitted through a printer interface to be processed by the firmware unit.

7. A method of supporting a plurality of models of a printing apparatus by a common firmware, the method comprising:

confirming a model index designation command which designates a model index corresponding to one of the plurality of printing apparatus models;

extracting function information corresponding to the one of the plurality of printing apparatus models which is designated by the model index designation command;

confirming a function of the designated model using the function information; and performing the function.

8. The method of claim 7, further comprising:

inputting the model index designation command and storing the command in an initialization file; and

confirming the model index designation command by executing the initialization file.

9. The method of claim 7, further comprising:

writing a separate file which stores therein the model index designation command;

storing the file in the printing apparatus through a printer interface; and confirming the model index designation command by executing the file.

10. The method of claim 7, wherein the function of a basic model that is previously set is performed in response to there being no function information corresponding to the designated model index.

11. A firmware unit to control a printing apparatus, wherein the firmware unit stores function information of a plurality of models of the printing apparatus, and controls the printing apparatus according to the function information corresponding to the printing apparatus.

12. The firmware unit of claim 11, further comprising a storage unit to store the function information of the plurality of models of the printing apparatus.

13. The firmware unit of claim 12, further comprising a model index processing unit to store a model index designation command received from outside the firmware unit, extract the function information corresponding to a model index designated by the model index designation command, and output the extracted information.

14. The firmware unit of claim 13, further comprising a data receiving unit to receive data from outside the firmware unit, and transmit the model index designation command to the model index processing unit in response to the model index designation command being in the received data.

15. The firmware unit of claim 14, further comprising a data processing unit to receive the data excluding the model index designation command from the data receiving unit and convert the data into corresponding printer language.

16. The firmware unit of claim 15, further comprising a data printing unit to control hardware of the printing apparatus to output the converted data onto a printing medium.

17. The firmware unit of claim 11, further comprising a firmware driving unit to control hardware of the printing apparatus to receive the function information and perform a corresponding function.

18. A method of controlling a printing apparatus, the method comprising:
storing function information of a plurality of models of the printing apparatus in the printing apparatus, and
controlling the printing apparatus according to the function information corresponding to the printing apparatus.

19. A firmware to control a plurality of models of a printing apparatus, wherein the firmware installed in the plurality of models of the printing apparatus comprises function information of each of the plurality of models, and controls each of the plurality of models according to function information corresponding to each of the respective models.

20. A firmware to control a plurality of models of a printing apparatus, comprising:
a plurality of model index functions;
wherein the firmware controls the models of the printing apparatus according to a respective one of the model index functions designated in response to a model index command.